

Providence Nursery School
9019 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 20031
www.providencenurseryschool.com

The Providence Pages

A Letter from Amanda...



Mark your Calendar

Monday January 4th
School Resumes

Monday January 11th
Board Meeting
7:30pm

January TBD
Parent Teacher Conferences
3/4s & 4s

Saturday January 16th
Cleaning and Maintenance Day
8:30am-11:30am

Monday January 18th
NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wednesday January 20th
NO SCHOOL
Inauguration Day

Monday January 25th
NO SCHOOL
FCPS Student Holiday

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope you all were able to have a fun and relaxing holiday. While we are all looking ahead to the light at the end of this pandemic tunnel in 2021, we are unfortunately still in its grasp. As a reminder, if over the holidays you visited with others who did not follow safety measures such as wearing masks and social distancing, please consider quarantining away from school until 2 weeks after your exposure to ensure the safety of our teachers and other students.

Our first day back to school is January 4th! While we are not guaranteeing 2 solid hours outdoors anymore, the plan is still to spend as much time outside as possible. Additionally, while inside, the windows/doors will be open- so it is still very important to dress for the weather! Layers are preferred to be able to adjust as needed. Remember to label everything! Also starting January 4th, we welcome any PNS student that's available to virtual music class with Ms. Allison at 10:30 (3/4s and 4s still have music on Fridays). Look for the link in your email.

Typically January is the start of enrollment for the next school year. We have bumped the start of in-house enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year until mid-February. Our annual Open House will be virtual this year; please contact me if you are interested or able to film/edit a virtual tour! School will be closed on Monday January 18 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Wednesday January 20 for Inauguration Day, and Monday January 25 to match the FCPS Student Holiday. We also recognize that some FCPS elementary schools are changing their schedule this month; please speak with your teacher if you have any concerns. Virtual teacher conferences are coming up this month for the 3/4s and 4s class. This is a great chance to learn more about your kids. Look for sign-up directions from your teachers.

Finally, you have probably noticed the Little Pantry in the front of Providence Presbyterian Church. PNS has adopted the Little Pantry the weeks of 1/10 and 1/24. It is our responsibility those weeks to stop by and make sure the Little Pantry is stocked and tidy. This can be a fun activity for you and your child just before drop off or after pick up, since we were not able to do our traditional Littlest Tree or food donation this year. Look for a follow-up email for specific items needed.

Thank you all again for your patience and diligence this year. I continue to be so grateful to our wonderful staff for being willing to work and for the amazing families that have made 2020 a success. Things will only get better in 2021!

The *Providence Pages* is published for Providence Nursery School, Inc. Please send submissions to melissasahern@gmail.com by January 20th for February's issue.

Amanda



CDO &

2's

Welcome back, Twos and CDO families! I hope you all enjoyed a lovely winter break. When we return to class, the children will find that they now have *twice* as many options for learning and playing, with both indoor and outdoor activities to look forward to each day!

Our first theme for this month will be **Community Helpers**. For the first two weeks in January, we'll read about different jobs that people do, play a guessing game about the tools they use, and play with toys showing people at work and in uniform. One the most interesting aspects of a job for a Two is the vehicle that goes with it... we'll have all kinds of emergency vehicles out to play with in the Big Room!

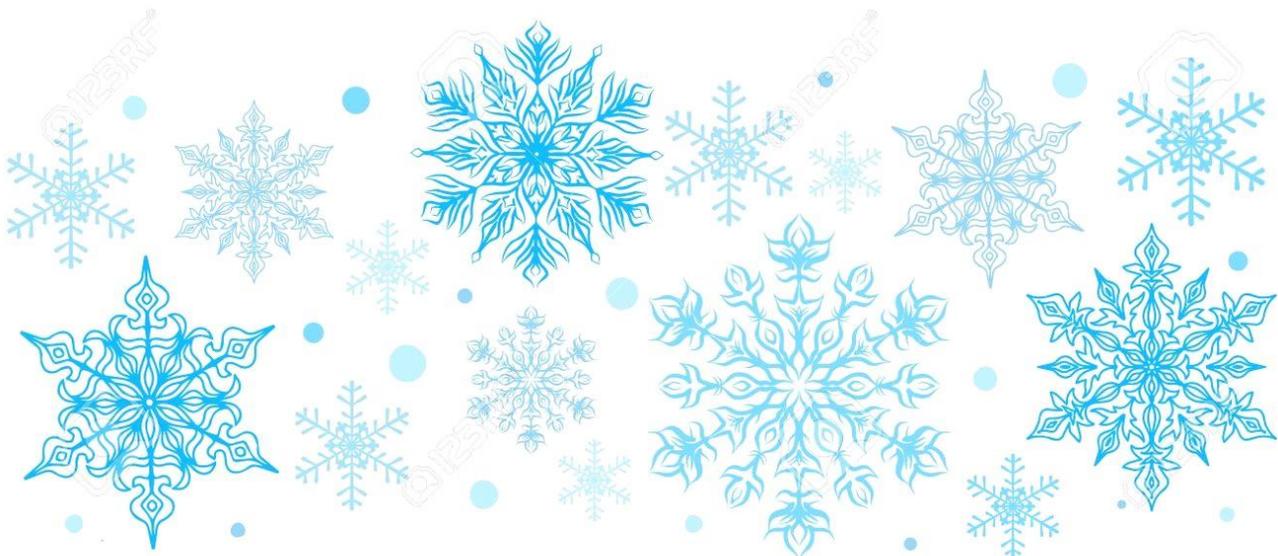
Beginning the week of January 18th, our topic will be **Dinosaurs**. We have fossils to dig up, toy dinosaurs to find and play with, books to read, music to dance to, and art to create -- all on a dinosaur theme. It will be a busy week!

Our final theme in January will be **Winter Weather**. I love creating and acting out stories together with the children at Circle Time; for this theme, we will act out winter activities for the ice and snow. We'll use ice to make art, and use felt board people to talk about the warm winter clothing people wear.

Our class will start each morning in the Big Room, with a variety of centers spread out across the room. We'll end on the playground, heading outdoors for a safe and comfortable amount of time in that morning's weather. Please continue to help your child dress in layers to stay warm on colder days, as it will be chilly inside with the windows open as well as outside on the playground.

I am looking forward to seeing all my young friends back at preschool, and to the start of this new year, 2021! Happy new year!

Jessie



It's a new year, and a fresh start! When we return from the winter break, our Threes class will be able to widen our range of activities, with some indoor and some outdoor activities each day. Inside, we'll take advantage of our access to a comfortable carpet to sit down and introduce some new elements to our morning Circle Time, beginning with a daily look at the calendar. Outside, we will continue to utilize all of the church grounds, adjusting the schedule to spend a safe and comfortable amount of time in that morning's weather, and have Bike Days whenever we can.

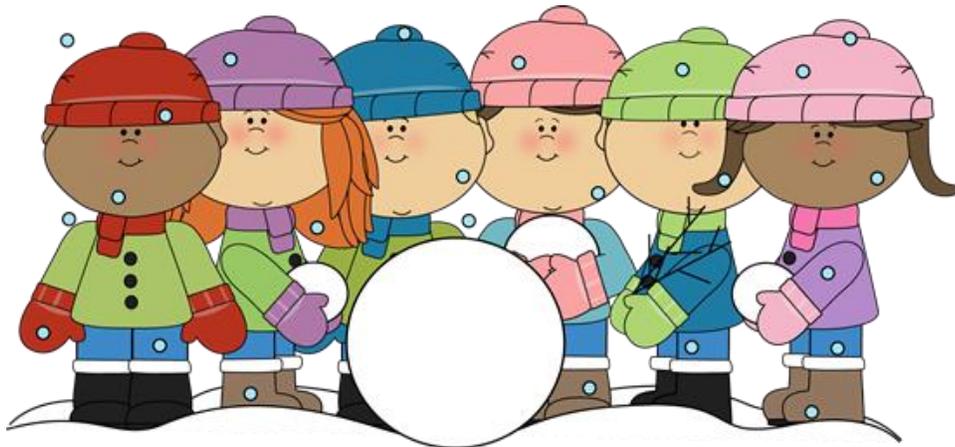
The first class theme for January will be **Community Helpers**. We'll spend two weeks identifying some important roles in our communities, and investigating and pretending about the work people do. We will continue to ask and answer Questions of the Day in our Circle Time each morning. Your child may come home with a question or two about the work you do, too! We will try putting together some tricky puzzles showing people at work, and try out some toy tools and vehicles for pretend play about emergency workers.

Our focus for the week of January 18th will be **Dinosaurs**; we will learn what paleontologists do, use different tools to dig for fossils in several ways, and play with dinosaur toys. Some dinosaurs were *very* big. How big? We'll have to do some measuring and comparing to find out!

Our final theme in January will be **Winter Weather**. We'll learn about snow and ice, create art for the winter season, and expend plenty of energy playing with the preschool's collection of soft cotton "snowballs."

I can't wait to see all my young friends back at school in **2021**; I know we'll all be eager to get back to learning and playing at preschool!

Jessie



3/4's & 4's

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope all the three/fours and fours and their families had a memorable, restful break and that everyone's special wishes came true! Now that winter has settled in around us, it's time to get back to school. Our planbooks are full of ideas to help us beat the cold-weather blues.

During the first week of January, we will have lots of winter excitement as each child discovers what makes winter so unique...and FUN! We'll have the opportunity to create some pretty cool "snowy" art. (I hope you like glitter! LOL) We'll also concentrate on learning the difference between mittens and gloves! Then we're off to talk about polar animals (1/11). Penguins, polar bears, and snowy owls will make appearances during our circletime. And our table work will be very wild and exciting!!! Dinosaurs will roam PNS beginning on the 19th. Be very prepared for lots of prehistoric action! How many types of dinosaurs can you name? We bet your kids will be able to identify many types before the month is over! Then we will don our paleontologist hats starting on the 26th as we discover and learn about dinosaur bones and fossils. From tiny dinosaurs in our block center to painting our very own dinosaur rock eggs, the excitement runs high. There is no more popular unit in a preschooler's educational experience!

There are several dates that need to be written in your new 2021 calendars. Conferences will take place throughout January. This will be a time when we will meet with each of you by ZOOM to discuss your child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development. After the first of the year, we will send out a Sign-Up Genius for you to make your choice of conference time. We will also be sending out a note asking if there is anything specific that you would like to discuss during our time together. Also remember that there is no school on the 18th(MLK Day), the 20th(Inauguration Day), and the 25th...all FCPS holidays.

Now that we are moving inside, there will some classroom management changes that will occur, Dropoff will remain the same at Door #2. The kids will now have cubbies inside the hall to "park" their coats and backpacks. We will be able to phase in more free choice during small-motor time first thing

in the morning in the back classrooms. The first part of our indoor mornings will be spent with free choice centers and circletime before moving on to bathroom/snacktime...and ending with the Big Room and outside play time.

Speaking of independence, we hope you are noticing how proficient these kids are becoming at putting on their own coats. We are so proud of each of them! Children can get frustrated when they always need to ask for help, so this is one skill that they can perform by themselves with practice. Please encourage your child to dress him/or herself when leaving home. (Prints and solids look lovely together, don't they? We heard that this is this season's fashion statement!) Allow a little extra time, if you can, so that they can show off their new skills. They are all doing a great job!!! (Flip, flop...over the top!) Zippering a coat is also within reach of this age group...so we're encouraging it, too! Some in the gang have already conquered this skill...and are now busy helping their friends get ready to go outside. We all appreciate our helpful friends!

Calendar time is a favorite time of day...the kids are really getting into counting and deciding what day of the week it is, along with the daily weather. And now it is time to introduce patterning during our calendar work! Patterning is such an important pre-math skill. So when your child is looking for something to do one day, give them a handful of buttons, or coins, or whatever is handy...and ask them to make a pattern. We make it fun at school...bet you can, too!

The Monday gang will continue their march through the alphabet with letters W(1/4) and D(1/11). You should hear this group as they put the letter sounds to use...their prereading skills are starting to emerge! And they are having lots of FUN doing it! Plus every member of this gang is attempting to write their name...an awesome achievement! We are so proud of each one of them!

WOW...what a month! As usual, if anyone has any concerns or questions concerning your child, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. You know how we love to tell you how terrific and special your little one is! We are both looking forward to conferences! Stay tuned...

Kelly and Jane

Summer Camp

As a reminder, PNS is not offering a summer camp this year, as decided prior to the pandemic, due to FCPS's earlier last day of school.

Lost and Found

Please speak with your child's teacher if you have lost anything, as the lost and found box is not accessible to parents.

Lunch Bunch

We are now able to do class-based lunch bunches for the 3s and 3/4s & 4s classes! To sign up your child, email enrollment@providencenurseryschool.org with the day(s) you would like your child to attend. Once we meet the minimum number of 3 students, we will let you know. Lunch bunch can start as early as January 4th if we have enough students. Cost is \$30/month for each day attending.

Fundraising

Thank you for those who participated in the Minted fundraiser and our online bookfair! Our bookfair link is still officially open and will be for the rest of the year, so feel free to shop anytime! If you have any fundraising questions or suggestions, please email Emily Gillotte at emedee@hotmail.com.

Volunteer Opportunities

Each family enrolled is asked to complete eight volunteer hours during the school year. CDO-only families are required to do four. Here are some opportunities to earn your volunteer hours:

- Attend our next Board Meeting on Monday January 11th
- Attend an additional Clean-up/Maintenance day. January 16th, March 20th & potentially May 15th
- Volunteer to help with the virtual tour

Thank You!

Thank you to Emily Gillotte for all of her hard work on our Bookworm, Minted, and restaurant nights! Thank you to all who supported PNS through their shopping efforts. Thank you to Charles and Meredyth Havasy for their help in keeping the policies and procedures addendum up to date. A special thank you to our aides Mrs. Wallace, Ms. Karen, and Ms. Laura who put in not only their time and care, but a lot of physical energy moving things around inside and out!

Editor's Note

Thank you for reading the PNS newsletter. If there is anything you would like to have published in the February Newsletter please submit it by January 20th. If you have any suggestions or things you would like to see in the newsletter don't hesitate to let me know.

Thank you,
Melissa Ahern
melissasahern@gmail.com



January 2021

Sun	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
					1 NO SCHOOL <i>WINTER BREAK</i> Tuition Due	2
3	4 School Resumes	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 Board Meeting 7:30pm	12	13	14	15	16 Cleaning and Maintenance Day 8:30am-11:30am
17	18 NO SCHOOL <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	19	20 NO SCHOOL <i>Inauguration Day</i>	21	22	23
24	25 NO SCHOOL <i>FCPS Holiday</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31						